

May 9, 2003

Kenneth Payne
Chief, Marketing Programs Branch
Room 2638-S; Livestock and Seed Program
Agricultural Marketing Service
USDA; STOP 0251
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-0251

RE: Comments on Docket No. LS-02-15

Dear Sir:

The USDA has the responsibility to identify and determine the universe of producers covered by the Pork Act. The rule as proposed should be amended to not just focus on the remitters of checkoff.

There is a significant number of producers who are not easily identified by reviewing a list of names and addresses of people from whom assessments were collected by markets and packers. There are many producers who have paid assessments through indirect means such as marketing groups, cooperatives, partnerships, etc.

I am a member of such a group. I urge the USDA to develop a rule that would better identify all pork producers who are remitting checkoff indirectly.

Sincerely,



Jim Ledger
103 E. 15th Street
Washington, Iowa 52353